



# State of Connecticut

## DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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**Testimony of**  
**Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel**  
**Office of Chief Public Defender**  
***Raised Bill No. 6704***  
**An Act Concerning Prison Overcrowding**  
**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing**  
**March 24, 2009**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill No. 6704, An Act Concerning Prison Overcrowding*. The bill would provide the Commissioner of Correction the discretion to extend a furlough that has been granted to the inmate. In addition, the proposed language amends the reasons for which the Commission may exercise her discretion to grant a furlough to a nonviolent offender for "any compelling reason consistent with rehabilitation"; provides notice to the victim; and, provides that a victim may give a written statement to be considered by the Commissioner in the exercise of her discretion.

This proposed bill could assist nonviolent inmates in their subsequent reentry efforts into the community by allowing them access to treatment and counseling resources in the community in which they will reside. In addition, the release of nonviolent offenders for rehabilitative purposes can assist in decreasing prison overcrowding.